(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the details of financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to MSEB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The World Bank has withheld approximately Rs.870 crores from Loan 3498-IN for Second Maharashtra Power Project with effect from 22.10.1996 mainly due to the inability of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) to achieve an annual return of 4.5% of the average net value of its fixed assets in operation and to reduce its commercial account receivables to less than 2.5 months of revenue.

Government of Maharashtra has enabled MSEB to earn a return of 4.5% in 1995-96 by increasing electricity tariff and providing with a subsidy. It has also passed on loan funds to MSEB, written off unrecoverable dues to some extent and initiated steps such as disconnection of power supply of defaulters, withdrawing all its previous directions for not doing so in the case of certain categories of consumers and for recovery of outstanding dues. Documents showing evidence mainly regarding improvement in cash collections, writing off of the remaining bad debts are yet to be furnished to the World Bank by Government of Maharashtra.

Government of India has impressed upon the Government of Maharashtra for fulfilment of the loan covenants. The matter has also been taken up with the World Bank for revocation of suspension of the loan.

Generation of Power in J&K

790. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generating capacity of the State of J&K at present;

(b) the total supply and demand of power in the State; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up the gap between supply and demand of power in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The present generating capacity of Jammu & Kashmir is 353 MW.

(b) During April-Janaury, 1997 the power supply position in J&K is as under :

Energy (MU net)		Peak (MW net)	
Requirement	3918	Peak Demand	900
Availability	3207	Peak met	746
Shortage	711	Shortage	154
Percentage	18.1	Percentage	17

(c) Various measures taken to improve the availability of power in J&K include capacity addition in the Northern Region in general and J&K in particular from ongoing/new projects maximising the generation from existing capacity, reduction in Transmission and Distribution Losses, effective Demand Management, Energy conservation measures and arranging assistance from neighbouring states/region

ADB Assistance

791. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of the Cauvery IV Water Supply Scheme;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Centre to seek assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for implementing this Scheme; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka. However, under the ADB assisted Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project for a loan of US $ 85 million which was approved by the ADB on 14.12.95, there is a water supply component for Mysore and two other towns. The cost of this component is estimated at US $ 15.4 million (Rs.54 crores approximately) which includes a foreign exchange component of US $ 3.5 million.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Decrease in Agricultural Land

792. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the decrease in the agricultural land each year due to the construction of new houses thereon; and

(b) the stretch of land which will be out of the periphery of agriculture land in the next five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No year-wise data is available on decrease in agricultural land due to construction of new houses.